

Naturalist Guided Field Trips 2016–2017



August A. Busch Conservation Area
Columbia Bottom Conservation Area
St. Louis City Office
Rockwoods Reservation

How Do I Sign Up?

All Field Trips Are Free!

Thanks to the Design for Conservation sales tax, which provides 1/8 of 1% of Missouri sales to the Missouri Department of Conservation

- Groups are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from our locations.
- Science GLE associations are available upon request.
- Field trip time depends on group size and your availability. Trips can last from two hours to all day.
- Only **one** field trip day available per class per school year.
- Groups of three or more classes will require teacher-led activities. See page 7 of this brochure for details.
- Please ensure students wear closed-toe, sturdy footwear and weather-appropriate clothing.

Field Trip Applications

All reservations are made by requesting and completing the "School Program Request Form." Please contact our offices to request the form or find it on each site's page on our website: <http://mdc.mo.gov>

Fall 2016 School Program request deadline is **August 19, 2016.**

- Programs are available September 20 through December 9, Tuesdays through Fridays, except holidays.
- Fall 2016 programs will be announced no later than August 26.

Spring 2017 School Program request deadline is **December 9, 2016.**

- Programs are available March 14 to May 12, Tuesdays through Fridays, except holidays.
- Spring 2017 programs will be announced no later than December 16.



Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

Life Cycles

All living things, big and small, have a life cycle. Discover nature as it grows through the exploration of one of the following: Amphibians, Plants, or Insects. **Grades PreK—2**

Animal Adaptations

Discover unique adaptations that allow animals to thrive in their environment. Examine animal artifacts to better understand the role they play in survival. Choose from: Birds, Mammals, or Reptiles. **Grades PreK—2**

Habitat Exploration

Discover the diversity of life in one of the following habitats:

● Forest, Prairie, or Wetland. **Grades 3—5**

Hunting and Tracking

● Learn how hunting and tracking are used to manage populations and provide food. Test your skills with home-made bows and arrows and find and identify animal tracks. **Grades 3—5**



Surviving the Wild

How well can you survive in the woods? Try your hand at creating a primitive shelter, making a fire pit, and other techniques to help you survive. **Grades 3—5**



Aquatic Studies

How healthy is the water around you? What kinds of things live there? Students put the scientific process to work to determine how biotic and abiotic factors affect the diversity of aquatic ecosystems. Chemical and macroinvertebrate sampling will be conducted.

Grades 6—12

Forest Ecology

What is the value of a tree? Learn about the importance of a forest throughout its lifetime. Become familiar with tree diversity, succession, forest management, and invasive species. **Grades 6—12**

August A. Busch Conservation Area

Frogs, Dragonflies, and Metamorphosis

Metamorphosis is an amazing process to see and study. Learn about frog and dragonfly life cycles and try to catch them in their aquatic habitats. Meet different types of frogs and insects that all change as they grow from tails and gills to hopping and catching flies. **Grades PreK—2**



Habitat Hunt

In a pond, under a rock or up in a tree, what is your idea of the perfect habitat? Meet some live animals and observe animal mounts to discover a perfect animal habitat. Venture outside to search for real habitats and learn how you can help animals survive. **Grades PreK—2**



Who's for Lunch

Owls, snakes, mice and seeds... they're all connected and dependent on each other for survival. Remove one piece and the food chain falls apart. Students will study food chains and food webs and even investigate real owl pellets. **Grades 3—6**

Aquatic Studies

Discover the diverse life in a pond beyond fish. Students will visit an aquatic habitat to sample and identify critters they find. Learn about the complex food chains and how aquatic ecosystems depend on humans to remain clean and healthy. Includes a classroom session with aquatic wildlife. **Grades PreK—12**

St. Louis City Office

*Most programs will take place within Forest Park. Other locations may be available upon request.

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Rockwoods Reservation

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Beginning Map and Compass

Students will learn the fundamentals of using a compass and how to understand the basics of a map, then test their skills moving through a fun beginners' orienteering course. **Grades 6—12**



Teacher-Led Activities

All Teacher-Led Activities will include supplies with instructions to help guide you and your students through the activity. When tied to a Naturalist program, these activities are excellent additions to any field trip. Teacher-Led Activities are also great options for self-guided field trips when Naturalist staff are unavailable. Each is intended for 30 minutes to 1 hour of activity.

1. Discovery Hike – Walk in the woods and make observations to discover plants, wildlife, and habitats.

- *All Ages*

2. Creative Kids! – Create frog masks, fish puzzles, clothespin butterflies, or even draw and paint wildlife using our mounts as models! Your students will create unique crafts and works of art to take home to show their family and friends.

- *Grades Pre-K–2*

3. Aquatic Food Chains and Food Webs – Fish, frogs and birds... they all live in aquatic ecosystems, but they each survive differently. Discuss herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores of aquatic systems and create a related craft.

- *Grades Pre-K–2*

4. Nature Games – Play games such as Bats and Moths, Oh Deer, Turtle Troubles, Aquatic Assassins, and more. These exciting Naturalist games connect students to the realities of living in the wild by becoming the animals they are studying.

- *Grades Pre-K–8*

5. Litter Gitter! – Help support the Conservation Area you are visiting with a service project to clean up litter along trails, lakes, or ponds. Tongs, gloves, and trash bags will be supplied.

- *Grades 3–12*

6. Mapping Hide and Seek – Map reading and navigation will test students' communication and teamwork. Your students will find their way among their natural and man-made surroundings while hiding an object and creating a map for others to follow.

7. Cache On the Trail – Hike a trail to find several caches that our Naturalists have hidden in the forest. Your students will rely on teamwork and observation of the land to find each hidden cache.

- *Rockwoods only, Grades 6–12*



Where are the Field Trip Sites?

St. Louis City Office

The staff of the former "Forest Park Office" are moving to another location in south city. While we are in the process of moving, please contact us via e-mail and we will get back to you as soon as possible: amy.wilkinson@mdc.mo.gov or melissa.hurayt@mdc.mo.gov.

Most programs will still meet within Forest Park, however other locations in the city may be available upon request.

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO 63304
636-441-4554

For area map and directions, go to:
<http://mdc.mo.gov/busch>



Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road
Wildwood, MO 63038
636-458-2236

For area map and directions, go to:
<http://mdc.mo.gov/rockwoods>

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road
St. Louis, MO 63138
314-877-6014

For area map and directions, go to:
<http://mdc.mo.gov/ColumbiaBottom>



Our Conservation Areas offer educational programming for everyone! To view the current list of upcoming programs in the St. Louis Region, please visit: www.mdc.mo.gov/regions/st-louis